

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR.

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HIDDEN TREASURES OF ANTIQUITY.

Much scientific and general interest is taken in the mission to this country of Mr. Charles Waldstein, Professor of Fine Arts in Cambridge University. Prof. Waldstein wishes to enlist the moral and material aid of learned bodies all over the world in his proposed excavation of Herculaneum. In London, Paris and Berlin funds have been raised for the purpose and as the countenance of the President and of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has been given to the American proposals of Prof. Waldstein, it is probable that very substantial sums will be subscribed in the United States.

To lay bare Herculaneum would doubtless add far more to the world's knowledge of ancient Rome, of its treasures of literature and art and of its more enlightened customs, than was disclosed by the excavation of Pompeii. Herculaneum was a summer home of the Roman aristocracy, a center of Greek art and literature, while Pompeii was an ordinary town. Large libraries, much resorted to by scholars, were there and fine collections of bronze and marble. No manuscripts were found in Pompeii; what few were there were doubtless burned by the hot ashes with which the city was covered. Herculaneum, on the other hand, was submerged and, it is thought, preserved in much of its entirety by an inundation of liquid mud. Before excavations were stopped several years ago by the authorities of the modern town of Resina which is built over Herculaneum, many manuscripts were found there, 1750 in all, together with bronzes, glass, papyrus, wood and marble in perfect order. From Pompeii treasures were taken a few years after the city was buried, a task which was made easy by the fact that the ash coverlet was only fifteen feet thick. But the roofs of Herculaneum, when the Vesuvian flood subsided, were eighty feet below the surface and the light of day probably never reached them until a shaft was sunk thirty years ago.

If anything is to be done at Herculaneum, the town of Resina must first be bought and moved away, after which the mudcap over the Roman city may be dredged and carried off. Such work would be costly; but considering that vast treasures of Imperial Rome would probably be uncovered, the question of money ought not to be insurmountable. Surely, when so much wealth goes into the endowment of colleges for classical study, enough should be at hand to undertake a task which may lead to the discovery of the lost books of Livy and the dramatists and perhaps of some treatises about the sect of queer dissenters whose founder had, but a brief lifetime before, been crucified between two thieves.

FROM COUNTIES TO COLONY.

If there is any danger of colonial government for Hawaii it will lie in the success of the scheme to establish elective county and municipal governments here.

County government is not wanted in this Territory except by politicians and they want it so that they may get from it what the taxpayers will have put in.

It is to be feared, as a general rule that elective counties would be managed by the worst elements for the worst purposes. Here and there good men would have a foothold; but the general results would be deplorable. People began to see that within a week after our former counties were organized, though Oahu did very well as compared with the rest.

The talk at Washington of colonial administration being in a study of our failure to govern ourselves wisely and honestly. An exhibition of our incapacity, such as the personnel of winning tickets in some of the other islands in the abortive county election of two years ago foreshadowed, could not help but revive the colonial issue. Furthermore, a wide-open county and municipal system, would, by the scandals it created and the taxes it raised, build up a strong colonial party here.

If Hawaii consulted its own interests before those of the job chasers it would stand pat for the government we now have.

There seems to have been a mix-up in the dispatches regarding Kuhl's salary bill. The cablegram which reached the Advertiser said "Secretary, \$2000." The coast files make it read: "Secretary of the Treasury, \$3000." Probably the facts are that the Secretary of the Territory was meant and that his salary was allowed to stand.

J. O. Carter, an authority on all things Hawaiian, asserts that Robert G. Davis, who once sat on the Supreme bench of the Kingdom, had native blood.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

Somewhere between one-third and one-half the railroads of the world are in the United States. The aggregate length of all railroad lines in this country is greater than the distance between the earth and the moon. According to a statistician they carry in the course of a year fourteen times more people than there are in the whole world if we estimate the passenger traffic by the number of people carried one mile. Their employees are more numerous than the combined regular armies of any two nations, and they kill and wound in their operations each year more people than the soldiers that Japan lost in the capture of Port Arthur. Their receipts and disbursements surpass those of the richest nation in time of war. Using the last annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission as a basis for calculation, we find that the aggregate single track railroad mileage in the United States is 207,977; but if we take all tracks into consideration it is 283,821. The rolling stock comprises 48,871 locomotives and 1,753,389 cars, of which 38,140 are used in passenger service. This trackage and property are owned by about 2000 different roads, capitalized for \$12,599,990,258, and burdened with \$6,444,431,226 of funded debts. They keep on their payrolls 1,312,537 employees, or 639 to every lineal mile, who receive in the aggregate \$775,321,415 annually in wages.

During the year these roads carried 694,891,535 passengers 425,142,204 miles for \$421,704,592; and 638,880,658 tons of freight 173,221,278,993 miles for \$1,338,020,026. The total receipts, if we include income from various sources with gross earnings, were \$2,106,534,387, out of which were paid among other sums \$166,176,586 in dividends and \$1,257,538,852 for operating expenses. The gross earnings average about \$9.258 per mile. The aggregate number of persons reported as killed was 9840, and the aggregate number of persons reported as injured was 76,553.

Of the fatal casualties, 3606 were sustained by employees, 355 by passengers, 879 by persons unclassified, and 500 by persons trespassing on the property of the companies. The number of injuries sustained by employees during the year was 90,481, by passengers 8231, and by other persons 7841. The fact that over half of the persons killed, exclusive of employees and unclassified persons, were trespassers is a point of great significance to the credit of the railroads and shows one of the causes for the long list of accidents. The American people in general are more careless and reckless than the managers of the railroads. They are impatient of delays, and by habit and temperament they try to reach their destinations with the least possible loss of time. They take big risks of life, limb and property. They are exacting in their demands as to speed, and hence they often force railroad managers to transgress those rules for safety which are patiently submitted to by the traveling public in other countries.

Labor has won an unexpected victory in Russia where the Czar has sanctioned the proposals for the establishment of a Senate to stand between his ministers and the people. No one could have anticipated such a step a year ago, but the haven of democracy has been working since the 8th day of last February when Russia's naval prestige in the Far East was stricken at a blow, and the Czar has become gloomy over the outlook. What he has yielded means that he must yield more. As for his autocracy it has evidently gone for good.

ASKS THE GOVERNOR FOR INFORMATION

As showing something of the work that comes to the clerical force in the Governor's office it may be noted that a letter was received there yesterday from a man who wanted all the information about Hawaii that there is—and that an effort was being made to supply it to him. In the first place this inquiring gentleman wanted to know who was the Governor and who the Attorney General, and who the Secretary of the Territory, how long each of them would hold office and what was his salary. It might be thought from all that that he was looking for a government job here. Then he wanted to know when the Legislature met and the full names and addresses of all the members. It might be thought from that that he was going to try and lobby through some grafting scheme. Next he wanted to know all about the statute of limitations, and it might be inferred from that that he had done something somewhere and was looking for a safe place of refuge.

And all these conjectures would be wrong, because he was only a San Francisco publisher getting up a statistical work. And he wanted to know several hundred things besides what have been enumerated here.

ECONOMY is the surest road to wealth but there is nothing gained by neglecting a cough or cold. Buy a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and cure it before pneumonia develops. It will be economy in the end. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., Agents for Hawaii.

THE GREAT STORM ON EAST COAST

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—With six inches of snow on the ground, forty mile wind from the northeast blowing the snow into high drifts and the temperatures at 18 degrees and falling, New York experienced today one of the worst storms of the winter. The snow began last night and continued falling steadily today. As it became colder travel in the streets became difficult.

No attempt was made to run surface cars on the Brooklyn bridge. The big malt house of the Kip Brewing Company caught fire while the storm was at its height and was practically destroyed. There were hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain in the bins.

A fire which threatened an enormous amount of property in the dry goods district in the vicinity of Walker and Church streets gave the firemen a desperate struggle for an hour today. The flames finally were subdued after causing damage to the extent of \$50,000.

Several trans-Atlantic and coastwise steamers which were due to arrive today had not arrived in the harbor long after they were due. Among them is the steamer Rotterdam from Rotterdam and the Menominee from London. They probably rode out the gale outside of Sandy Hook bar last night, waiting for daylight and a cessation of the blinding snowfall before attempting to come up through the crooked channels of the lower bay.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

(Continued from Page 1)

and beyond, and on all the cross streets where the sons of the Central Flower Kingdom, who make their homes in Honolulu, have their abiding place.

There had been a subdued note of preparation all through the quarter in the earlier hours of the evening. The streets were thronged with well-dressed Chinese, who moved about with an air of men who are getting ready. The stores were swept as clean as clean, and hung all about with long red banners upon which were cabalistic inscriptions. Large red and white lanterns, larger red and white lanterns than can be seen anywhere outside of China, swung in the wind before the shops and stores, and as night came down these were seen to hold twinkling electric lights. What would they say, in China, to electric lights in Chinese paper lanterns? The club houses showed gorgeous effects in white and colored incandescent globes, and noiseless servants—and even these in gala dress—moved about with that same air of mysterious preparation.

"No can tell anything," one of these said, to an early evening caller. "You come back midnight, look see!" Every household in town that has a Chinese servant prepared itself to rustle for its meals during the three days that will be devoted to the celebration. Chinese household servants who are prized are prized sufficiently to make the household subject itself to this annual discomfort while he celebrates. All so, he will bring back to the people of the household strange and valuable presents of silk, and confections that will cause the young of the white men to dream of fiery dragons and all sorts of uncouth monsters when it is taken into the insides of them.

At midnight the visitor returned to the club house to "look see!" but really it was not necessary to tell him that was the hour fixed for the opening of the celebration—not after it was opened. When the whistles blew, every Chinaman in town who was true to the traditions of his fatherland, and every one who had the price, seemed to be engaged in setting off strings of fire crackers that were punctuated at nerve racking intervals with bombs. The truer he was to his traditions, the more often he started the fiery strings to writhing, and the more money he had the more and larger were the bombs he burned. Some of the larger Chinese stores kept the thing up for hours, filling the night with spitting fire and the atmosphere with a most infernal smell of sulphur and burned powder.

As a noisy celebration it opened most successfully, and as a smelly one it left nothing to be desired. The club houses, which had been the quietest and the lightest places in town ten minutes before the time set for the celebration, became at once the noisiest; and many club men in silken robes stood there to welcome the friends, Chinese and American and natives, who poured in upon them from midnight on and offered their congratulations and best wishes. The New Year is a season when a Chinaman pays his debts and feels at peace with all the world, and when nothing that he has or can buy is too good for his friends. There were elaborate spreads at the clubs, liquid and other refreshments, and cigars for all, and all who came were made welcome.

Today, the merchants of the city will receive their friends, and pay their own New Year call, and there will be a general suspension of all but the most necessary business in the Chinese stores. There will be numerous receptions held in various parts of Chinatown.

At 11 a. m. the Quon On Society will hold a reception to which the public is invited.

The Chinese Consul Mr. Chang Tso Fan, will not hold his official reception at the Consulate until Saturday, beginning at noon on that day.

The celebration will conclude on Sunday night. Open house will be kept by the Yee Kee Tong occupying the big clubhouse at the corner of Matunaka and Hotel streets. A general invitation is extended to the public between 12 and 1.

Eruptions

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